

28 December 1979
From Afghan Task Force

Soviet Activity in Afghanistan

Military Supply Flights	-	At least 337 (317 since 24 Dec)
Troops Deployed	-	5,500
Advisors	-	3,500
Equipment		
APCS	-	At least 200 at Kabul
	-	At least 100 at Bagram
Artillery	-	At least 6 122 mm howitzers
	-	At least 16 85 mm assault guns

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The Buildup of Soviet Force in Afghanistan

Since 29 November

- I. Between 29 November and 14 December the Soviets sent additional forces to Bagram Airfield, supplementing the airborne infantry battalion of 400 men that had been stationed there since June.
 - A. Only 20 Soviet transport flights were detected during this period.
 - B. By the middle of December the following units had arrived at Bagram:
 - Two airborne infantry battalions, each with some 400 men and about 30 BMD airborne infantry combat vehicles
 - A specially configured unit of approximately 600 men that is equipped with a mixture of BTR-60 PB armored personnel carriers and BMP infantry combat vehicles
 - The arrival of these units brought the total number of Soviet troops at Bagram to some 2,000
- II. From late on 24 December, the Soviet have been sending airborne troops and equipment to Kabul.
 - A. There have been at least 317 military transport flights since 24 December and this activity is continuing.
 - B. These flights have brought the following forces into Kabul;
 - Two airborne regiments and an airborne battalion and some 3,400 troops and equipment are at the airfield.

--An airborne battalion with 30 BMDs and 400 troops are near the People's Palace. It may have come from Bagram Airfield.

III. The Soviets were preparing to deploy a Squadron of some 12 MIG-23 Floggers to Bagram on 26 December.

A. There have been reports today of Soviet fighters circling Kabul which leads us to believe that the MIG-23s may have arrived at Bagram and begun operation.

--Support units for these aircraft were scheduled to move overland from Termez to Bagram. This could lead to the introduction of a Soviet motorized rifle division.

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